

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Dab
ppm

1-24. (Canceled)

1 25. (currently amended) A method of making a circular
2 blade for cutting a moving material web, the blade having a steel
3 cutting edge, the method comprising the step of:
4 coating a surface of the cutting edge by means of plasma
5 with foreign ions to a depth between 50 μm and 500 μm .

1 26. (previously presented) The blade making method
2 defined in claim 25 wherein the depth is between 100 μm and 200 μm .

1 27. (previously presented) The blade making method
2 defined in claim 25, further comprising the step of
3 imparting to the cutting edge a hardness of 800 HV to
4 1300 HV without impairing its ductility.

1 28. (previously presented) The blade making method
2 defined in claim 27 wherein the hardness is between 900 HV and 1200
3 HV.

1 29. (previously presented) The blade making method
2 defined in claim 25 wherein at least the cutting edge is formed of
3 a heat-treated steel, a high-speed steel or a tool steel.

1 30. (previously presented) The blade making method
2 defined in claim 25 wherein the entire blade is formed of a heat-
3 treated steel, a high-speed steel, or a tool steel.

1 31. (previously presented) The blade making method
2 defined in claim 25 wherein the foreign ions are of nitrogen,
3 carbon, molybdenum, tungsten, and/or molybdenum.

1 32. (previously presented) The blade making method
2 defined in claim 31 wherein a portion of the molybdenum or tungsten
3 ions in the foreign ions is greater than a portion of titanium
4 ions.